

June 14, 2012

Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I have been contacted by the Springfield Airport Authority regarding their application to acquire a grant award, to help recruit a low cost carrier to serve their area.

As explained to me, the Springfield Airport Authority would like to acquire a grant award to help a new airline offset the startup costs at the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport. I understand that Direct Air provides valuable low cost flights for the people of Central Illinois. In addition, these low cost flights draw attention to the daily network carriers allowing steady growth among all carriers. With the termination of Air Tran at the Bloomington Airport, Central Illinois will lose a significant amount of low cost airfare. The low cost carriers provide affordable airfare to many destinations in the southwest and southeast in the United States. I understand that the Springfield Airport Authority is ready to implement a marketing and awareness plan aimed at the entire Central Illinois region. A plan is also in place to draw attention to the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport's access to the railway between Chicago and St. Louis.

I know that the Springfield Airport Authority is in great hopes of receiving a grant in order to attract a low cost air carrier to replace Direct Air. I hope their request is given full and fair consideration. Please respond to my Peoria Congressional Office with the status of this request as well as the decision, when made. Thank you for your attention to this important application.

Sincerely,

Aaron Schock
Member of Congress

AJS/nh/pc